MACLEAR, THOMAS

DRAWER 22

Sculptors – M
(Plaques)

71. 2009. 085. 02993

Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Thomas Maclear

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71 2009 085 02993

July 7, 1953

Mr. Ralph G. Newman
Abraham Lincoln Book Shop
18 East Chestnut Street
Chicago, 11, Illinois

My dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you for the enclosures in your recent letter.

With reference to the plaque of Lincoln which you mentioned in your letter, there is little question but what the name of the artist is F. Simmons. We happen to have one of the plaques here in bronze which bears the inscription:

"W. Miller & Co., Metalists. Providence, R. I.
F. Simmons, Sculptor."

The original bronze plaque is of course superior to the cheaper reproductions which have been made by such foundrymen as the Thomas Maclear mentioned in your letter.

Very truly yours,

LAW:mm

Director

Abraham Lincoln
18 EAST CHESTNUT STREET * BOOK SHOP * TELEPHONE WHITEHALL 4-3085
CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS

July 3, 1953

Dear Dr. Warren:

Perhaps the most frequently encountered metal profile of Lincoln is the one that is so often reproduced in schools and trade shops etc.

I have often wondered who the original artist was who made the first plaque from which the thousands of reproductions were made. Recently I found one of these plaques with the following text affixed to the back:

> "The original bronze casting from which this Lincoln head was made, was cast in the foundry operated by Thomas Maclear near the shores of Lake Niagara, thought to be in the vincinity of St. Catherines, Canada (Ontario).
>
> Thomas Maclear was a "first engineer" on the Great Lakes during the summer months and during the winter months operated a shop and brass foundry.

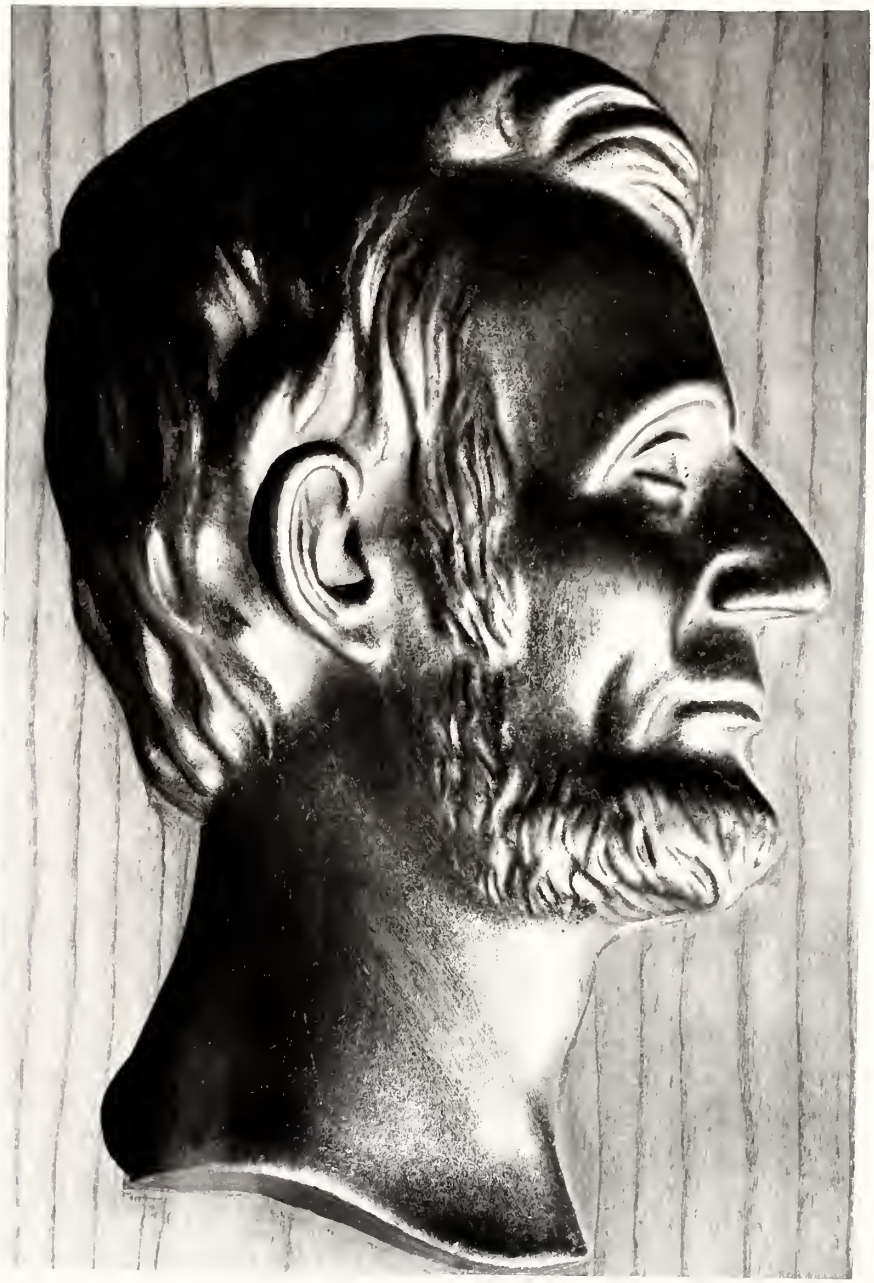
Do your files reveal any data on this plaque and the artists name? I suspect that Maclear was one of the many early copyists of the head. I'd like to run down the name of the artist merely to satisfy my curiosity. I'm enclosing a photograph of the plaque. I'm also sending you a new Lincoln "item" that will interest you -- it represents our latest venture in Lincolniana.

Sincerely

Ralph

Ralph G. Newman

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana



See also

Franklin Simmons, Sculptor

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http://archive.org/details/statuxxxxxxxmlinc

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